GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3189
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
LABS AT SEA PORTS
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sea-ports in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the quantum of food materials received from foreign countries at these ports during the last three years;

(c) whether additional fare is required to be paid if unloading of the goods takes undue delay in these ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether lab test of these food materials are undertaken before unloading it;

(f) if so, the facts thereof;

(g) whether such labs are there at the ports itself or such tests are to be got done from Mysore etc.;

(h) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish such labs at these sea ports; and

(i) if so, the time by which this is likely to be done?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): There are 12 major ports and 187 non-major ports in the country. The state-wise details are as under:-

West Coast	Number of major ports	Number of non -major ports	East Coast	Number of major ports	Number of non-major ports
Gujarat	1	40	Tamil Nadu	3	15
Maharashtra	2	53	Andhra Pradesh	1	12
Karnataka	1	10	Orissa	1	2
Kerala	1	13	West Bengal	1	1
Goa	1	5	Pondicherry	-	1
Daman & Diu	-	2	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	23
Lakshadweep Island	-	10			

(b): The quantity of food materials received from foreign countries as bulk cargo at the major ports during last 3 years are as under:-

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Quantity of food material in metric tones	2110524	2423998	2370153

(c) & (d): Port recovers berth hire charges on the vessel during her stay at the berth on hourly basis. If vessel takes more time to discharge the cargo, vessel agents are required to pay more berth hire charges.

(e) to

(i): Yes Sir. As per Rule 3 of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, all imported food articles coming at the ports are required to be analyzed at the designated Central Food Laboratories. Collector of Customs takes assistance of the Port Health Officers posted at various ports to get the chemical tests done for the imported consignment. With a view to avoiding delay in analysis of samples of imported food articles, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has authorized 27 State Public Analyst Laboratories and one Export Inspection Council Lab at Kolkata to undertake the analysis of samples imported through the ports. Public Analyst Laboratories carry out the tests within three to four days of receipt of the samples. Since laboratories are available at or in proximity to each major port, no new laboratory is proposed to be set up by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.